



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 24 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Chris Ahring
Apex Recycling Services
1245 N. 1st Street
Fairmont City, Illinois 62201

Dear Mr. Ahring:

Enclosed is a file-stamped Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) which resolves case docket no. CAA-05-2014-0035. As indicated by the filing stamp on its first page, we filed the CAFO with the Regional Hearing Clerk on JUN 24 2014.

Pursuant to paragraph 25 of the CAFO, Apex Recycling Services must pay the civil penalty within 30 days of JUN 24 2014. Your check must display the docket number CAA-05-2014-0035.

Please direct any questions regarding this case to Joanna Glowacki, Associate Regional Counsel at (312) 353-3757.

Sincerely,

Nathan A. Frank, Chief
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Section (IL/IN)

Enclosure

cc: Ann Coyle, Regional Judicial Officer/C-14J
Regional Hearing Clerk/E-19J
Joanna Glowacki/C-14J
Eric Jones, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

In the Matter of:)	Docket No. CAA-05-2014-0035
)	
Apex Recycling Services)	Proceeding to Assess a Civil Penalty
Fairmont City, Illinois,)	Under Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act
)	42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)
Respondent.)	



Consent Agreement and Final Order

Preliminary Statement

1. This is an administrative action commenced and concluded under Section 113(d) of the Clean Air Act (the CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d), and Sections 22.1(a)(2), 22.13(b) and 22.18(b)(2) and (3) of the Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties and the Revocation/Termination or Suspension of Permits (Consolidated Rules), as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

2. Complainant is the Director of the Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 5.

3. Respondent, Apex Recycling Services (Apex), is a company doing business in Illinois.

4. Where the parties agree to settle one or more causes of action before the filing of a complaint, the administrative action may be commenced and concluded simultaneously by the issuance of a consent agreement and final order (CAFO). 40 C.F.R. § 22.13(b).

5. The parties agree that settling this action without the filing of a complaint or the adjudication of any issue of fact or law is in their interest and in the public interest.

6. Respondent consents to the assessment of the civil penalty specified in this CAFO and to the terms of this CAFO.

Jurisdiction and Waiver of Right to Hearing

7. Respondent admits the jurisdictional allegations in this CAFO and neither admits nor denies the factual allegations in this CAFO.

8. Respondent waives its right to request a hearing as provided at 40 C.F.R.

§.22.15(c), any right to contest the allegations in this CAFO, and its right to appeal this CAFO.

Statutory and Regulatory Background

9. Subchapter VI of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7671, *et seq.* provides for the protection of stratospheric ozone. Section 608(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7671g(b) provides EPA with the authority to regulate the safe disposal of class I and II substances. Class I and II substances include refrigerants containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). EPA promulgated such regulations covering the safe disposal of CFCs and HCFCs from small appliances and motor vehicle air conditioners at 58 Fed. Reg. 28660 (May 14, 1993). These regulations for protection of the stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction are found in 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

10. Effective July 13, 1993, persons who take the final step in the disposal process (including but not limited to scrap recyclers) of small appliances and motor vehicle air conditioners (MVACs) must either recover the refrigerant in accordance with specific procedures or verify with signed statements that the refrigerant was properly recovered prior to receipt of the small appliance or MVAC. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f). If verification statements are used then the scrap recycler must notify the suppliers of the small appliance or MVAC of the need to properly recover the refrigerant. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f)(3). The scrap recycler must keep verification statements on-site for a minimum of three years. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.166(i) and (m).

11. EPA's regulations for the protection of the stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction define a "small appliance" as any appliance that is fully manufactured, charged, and hermetically sealed in a factory with five pounds or less of a class I or class II substance used as a refrigerant, including, but not limited to, refrigerators and freezers (designed for home, commercial, or consumer use), medical or industrial research refrigeration equipment, room air conditioners (including window air conditioners and packaged terminal air heat pumps), dehumidifiers, under the counter ice makers, vending machines, and drinking water coolers. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.152.

12. EPA's regulations for the protection of stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction define MVACs as mechanical vapor compression refrigeration equipment used to cool the driver's or passenger's compartment of any motor vehicle. See 40 C.F.R. §§ 82.32 and 82.152.

13. The Administrator of EPA (the Administrator) may assess a civil penalty of up to \$37,500 per day of violation up to a total of \$295,000 for CAA violations that occurred after January 12, 2009 under Section 113(d)(1) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(1), and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

14. Section 113(d)(1) limits the Administrator's authority to matters where the first alleged date of violation occurred no more than 12 months prior to initiation of the administrative action, except where the Administrator and the Attorney General of the United States jointly determine that a matter involving a longer period of violation is appropriate for an administrative penalty action.

15. The Administrator and the Attorney General of the United States, each through their respective delegates, have determined jointly that an administrative penalty action is appropriate for the period of violations alleged in this CAFO.

Factual Allegations and Alleged Violations

16. Apex owns and operates a scrap metal recycling facility at 1245 N. 1st Street, Fairmont City, Illinois.

17. Apex is a company organized in Missouri and doing business in Illinois.

18. Apex is a "person," as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 82.152.

19. On August 23, 2012, EPA inspected the facility to assess Apex's compliance with the CAA.

20. During the August 23, 2012 inspection, EPA observed many small appliances throughout the business, many with cut copper tubing, and bins of cut copper tubing.

21. During the August 23, 2012 inspection, Apex representatives told EPA that while it purchases air conditioning units from wreckers or other recycling companies after visually inspecting the unit, it doesn't take verification statements.

22. Apex is a person who takes the final step in the disposal process of small appliances and is subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

23. Apex accepted small appliances and MVACs without recovering refrigerant. Apex did not obtain verification statements that met the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f) for these small appliances and MVACs.

Civil Penalty

24. Based on an analysis of the factors specified in Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e), the facts of this case and cooperation, Complainant has determined that an appropriate civil penalty to settle this action is \$14,871.

25. Within 30 days after the effective date of this CAFO, Respondent must pay the \$14,871 civil penalty in 2 installments with interest as follows: \$7,447.89 within 30 days of the effective date of this CAFO; \$7,497.46 within 180 days of the effective date of this CAFO.

<u>Installment</u>	<u>Due By</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest (4%)</u>
Payment #1	Within 30 days of effective date of CAFO	\$ 7,447.89	\$ 7,435.50	\$ 12.39
Payment #2	Within 180 days of effective date of CAFO	\$ 7,497.46	\$ 7,435.50	\$ 61.96

Respondent must pay the installments by sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," to:

U.S. EPA
Fines and Penalties
Cincinnati Finance Center
P.O. Box 979077
St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000

For checks sent by express mail (non-U.S. Postal Service which won't deliver mail to P.O.

Boxes) sending a cashier's or certified check, payable to "Treasurer, United States of America,"

to:

U.S. Bank
Government Lockbox 979077
U.S. EPA Fines and Penalties
1005 Convention Plaza
Mail Station SL-MO-C2-GL
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

The check must note Respondent's name, docket number of this CAFO and the billing document number.

26. Respondent must send a notice of payment that states Respondent's name, the docket number of this CAFO and the billing document number to EPA at the following addresses when it pays the penalty:

Attn: Compliance Tracker (AE-17J)
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
Air and Radiation Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Joanna Glowacki (C-14J)
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

27. This civil penalty is not deductible for federal tax purposes.

28. If Respondent does not timely pay any installment payment as set forth in paragraph 25, above, the entire unpaid balance of the civil penalty shall become due and owing upon written notice by EPA to Respondent of the delinquency. EPA may request the Attorney General of the United States to bring an action to collect any unpaid portion of the penalty with interest, nonpayment penalties and the United States enforcement expenses for the collection

action under Section 113(d)(5) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5). The validity, amount and appropriateness of the civil penalty are not reviewable in a collection action.

29. Respondent must pay the following on any amount overdue under this CAFO. Interest will accrue on any overdue amount from the date payment was due at a rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 6621(a)(2). Respondent must pay the United States enforcement expenses, including but not limited to attorneys fees and costs incurred by the United States for collection proceedings. In addition, Respondent must pay a quarterly nonpayment penalty each quarter during which the assessed penalty is overdue. This nonpayment penalty will be 10 percent of the aggregate amount of the outstanding penalties and nonpayment penalties accrued from the beginning of the quarter. 42 U.S.C. § 7413(d)(5).

General Provisions

30. This CAFO resolves only Respondent's liability for federal civil penalties for the violations alleged in this CAFO.

31. The CAFO does not affect the rights of EPA or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violation of law.

32. This CAFO does not affect Respondent's responsibility to comply with the CAA and other applicable federal, state and local laws. Except as provided in paragraph 30, above, compliance with this CAFO will not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced pursuant to federal laws administered by EPA.


33. Respondent certifies that it is complying fully with 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f).

34. This CAFO constitutes an "enforcement response" as that term is used in EPA's Clean Air Act Stationary Civil Penalty Policy to determine Respondent's "full compliance history" under Section 113(e) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(e).

35. The terms of this CAFO bind Respondent, its successors and assigns.
36. Each person signing this consent agreement certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.
37. Each party agrees to bear its own costs and attorneys fees in this action.
38. This CAFO constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.-----

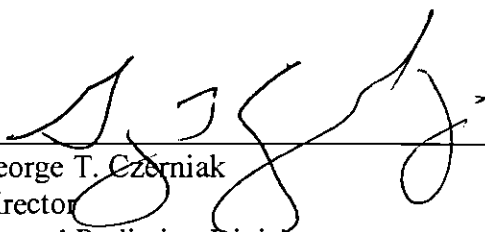
Apex Recycling Services, Respondent

4-3
Date


Chris Ahring, Owner
Apex Recycling Services

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Complainant

6/12/14
Date

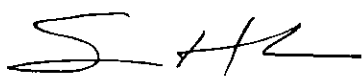

George T. Czerniak
Director
Air and Radiation Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

Consent Agreement and Final Order
In the Matter of: Apex Recycling Services
Docket No. CAA-05-2014-0035

Final Order

This Consent Agreement and Final Order, as agreed to by the parties, shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk. This Final Order concludes this proceeding pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.18 and 22.31. IT IS SO ORDERED.

6/17/2014
Date



Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5

Consent Agreement and Final Order
In the Matter of: Apex Recycling Services
Docket No. CAA-05-2014-0035

Certificate of Service

I certify that I filed the original and one copy of the Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO), docket number CAA 05 2014 0035 with the Regional Hearing Clerk (E-19J), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, and that I mailed the second original copy to Respondent by first-class, postage prepaid, certified mail, return receipt requested, by placing it in the custody of the United States Postal Service addressed as follows:

Chris Ahring
Apex Recycling Services
1245 N. 1st Street
Fairmont City, Illinois 62201


I certify that I delivered a correct copy of the CAFO by intra-office mail, addressed as follows:

Ann Coyle
Regional Judicial Officer (C-14J)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

I also certify that I mailed a correct copy of the CAFO by first-class mail to:

Eric Jones
Manager, Compliance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19506
Springfield, Illinois 62794

On the 24 day of June 2014.


Doretta Shaffer, Administrative
Program Assistant
AECAB, PAS

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT NUMBER:

7001 0320 0006 0186 0026